Declaration of Intention for a Christian Marriage

By definition, “Christian Marriage” differs from ordinary legal marriage in that the intention of the two individuals is to live out their marriage within the Christian Faith. In a Christian Marriage two people promise before God to utilize their full capacities in the marriage and to seek God’s help through the Church continually to strengthen their marriage and to grow together in faith. We ask each person to read the following questions carefully and to answer them honestly.

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 (Name) (Name)

1. Do you intend to make your marriage a lifelong

union? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you intend to make your marriage a relationship

of love, joy, help, and understanding to each other? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you intend, should you have children, to nurture

them spiritually as well as physically? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you intend to love each other, to comfort,

honor, and keep in sickness and in health until parted

by death? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you intend to forsake all others and to be

faithful to each other until parted by death? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you intend to establish a Christian Marriage,

in which you will seek God’s help through His Church

for the strength which is given by faithful public

worship, private prayer, and participation in the “Family

of God”, your local parish church? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

For the first person: If not St. James’ Church, what Church do you now attend?

Name of the Church \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

For the second person: If not St. James’ Church, what Church do you now attend?

Name of the Church \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Declaration of Intention**

(Both sign with their full legal signature)

We, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony in the Church, do solemnly declare that we hold marriage to be a lifelong union of husband and wife as it is set forth in the Form of Solemnization of Holy Matrimony in the Episcopal Church. We believe it is for the purpose of mutual fellowship, encouragement, and understanding, for the procreation (if it may be) of children, and their physical and spiritual nurture, and for the safeguarding and benefit of society, and we do engage ourselves, so far as in us lies, to make our utmost effort to establish this relationship and to seek God’s help thereto.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(To be returned to St James’ Episcopal Church with the other enclosures)